

February 19, 2005 Saturday F final all Edition

Daily Bread gets money, support

\$50,000 goes to soup kitchen

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Florida Today

MELBOURNE -- Celebrating \$50,000 from Washington to help the working homeless, more than 200 area residents pledged their support Friday night for the Daily Bread Soup Kitchen.

The support and money could not have come at a better time, according to Executive Director Sue Holaday.

In addition, there has been grumbling from some of the Daily Bread's neighbors as the soup kitchen seeks to build a bigger facility directly next door on Fee Avenue.

The 9,685-square-foot facility would feature an 88-seat dining room and perimeter fencing. Holaday has been meeting with the soup kitchen's neighbors to discuss expansion plans.

The plan would have to be approved by the Melbourne City Council.

"Right now, we are under the microscope," Holaday said. "But once we go before the planning and zoning, we will need the support. We know the supporters far outweigh the detractors."

One supporter was given a hero's welcome Friday night as Congressman Dave Weldon announced \$50,000 in federal aid to fund a program to feed the working homeless.

"I hope we can even do more in the years to come," Weldon said, addressing 200-plus at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

"The challenge will always be there," he said.

The money will be used to provide dinners for the working homeless as they are transported back to labor halls after a day of work.

A report issued by the evening's sponsors, Congregations for Community Action -- a group made up of seven churches covering four denominations -- found that motel rates start at \$35 a night and fast food dinners about \$5.

"So these folks must choose: eat, get a room so they can clean up, or too often neither," the report states.

Added Maryjane Wysocki of Holy Name of Jesus Church:

"The goal is to help working homeless get back on their feet and to show the community that Daily Bread has tremendous support."

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FLORIDA TODAY Reporter Rick Neale contributed to this report.